

WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD NORTH COAST REGION

EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

March 2002

WATERSHED PROTECTION DIVISION

Kendall-Jackson Supplemental Environmental Project

[Staff contact: Rhonda Raymond]

On May 7, 2001 the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, North Coast Region, Executive Officer issued Complaint No. R1-2001-37 for Administrative Civil Liability (ACL) to Kendall-Jackson Wine Estates, Ltd., in the amount of \$7,500 for alleged violations of water quality laws related to the one-day release of approximately 300 gallons of a potassium permanganate solution into the storm drain system, which then flowed into Airport Creek, tributary to Windsor Creek, tributary to Mark West Creek. The Complaint was issued for the discharge which violated Section 13376 of the California Water Code prohibiting the discharge of pollutants not authorized by waste discharge requirements to waters of the state.



[Newly planted trees at Kendall-Jackson site off Skylane Boulevard in the Santa Rosa/Windsor area.]



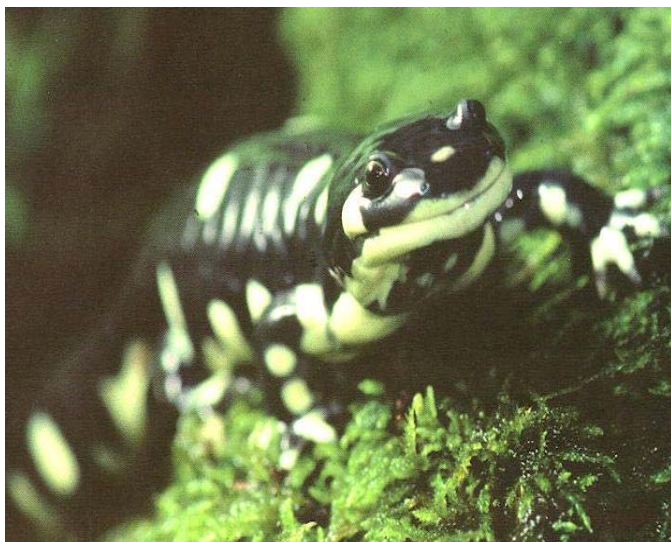
[Looking west towards Skylane Boulevard at the newly planted trees at the Kendall-Jackson Site.]

The total ACL amount issued was \$7,500. Of this amount, \$2,500 was due and payable with the remaining \$5,000 suspended contingent upon Kendall-Jackson's completion of a Supplemental Environmental Project (SEP). The proposed SEP included the planting of White Alder trees, Valley Oak trees, and the irrigation and care of the boxed native trees for two years, until the trees are established. The trees will provide valuable shade and cover in a barren section of Airport Creek. On April 18, 2002, the trees were planted on the south bank of Airport Creek.

South Sonoma Business Park

[Staff contact: Andrew Jensen]

On March 28, 2002, Regional Water Board staff met with Geoff Monk, of Monk and Associates, at the South Sonoma Business Park Site to oversee the sampling and relocation of California Tiger Salamander larvae, a species under consideration for listing as endangered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, from the Tiger



[An adult California Tiger Salamander]

Salamander avoidance pool as set forth as a condition of the Waiver of Waste Discharge Requirements and Issuance of Clean Water Act Section 401 Conditional Certification for South Sonoma Business Park, Cotati, California, dated August 27, 2001. Geoff Monk proceeded to net the pond with a handheld net and managed to capture two Tiger Salamander larvae. The larvae were placed in a black Rubbermaid container with about 8 inches of water inside and a lid was securely fastened. The larvae were then relocated to a local wetland mitigation bank. The two individuals were released without incidence into a suitable pond on the bank site.



[CTS larvae caught. March 28, 2002.]

On April 5, 2002, Regional Water Board staff again met Geoff Monk at the South Sonoma Business Park Site to oversee the sampling and relocation of Tiger Salamander

larvae from the avoidance pool. This time Geoff used Funnel Traps to capture the Tiger Salamander larvae. The funnel traps were set on April 4, 2002 at about 10:00 p.m. and checked first thing in the morning to make sure the individuals captured were not too stressed. A total of 12 individual larvae were captured, significantly better results than the previous attempt with a handheld net. It should also be mentioned that based on the size of one of the larvae, it appears that there were separate cohorts (age classes) captured. The 12 individuals were then relocated to a local wetland mitigation bank.



[CTS in funnel trap. April 5, 2002.]

Another sampling will be necessary due to the lack of success during the first attempt with a handheld net, and the likelihood that numerous individuals are still present in the CTS avoidance pool. The pool is not to be impacted in any way until final mitigation measures have been achieved.

CLEANUPS AND SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS DIVISION

Roseland Remedial Investigation Report Update

[Staff Contact: Mark Bartson]

The Santa Rosa Cleanup Unit staff continues activities related to the Remedial Investigation Report (Report) prepared by the County of Sonoma and the South Park County Sanitation District. The Report is the culmination of over two years of investigation by the County into the Halogenated Volatile Organic Compound (HVOC) contamination in the groundwater in the Roseland area. This HVOC plume extends for approximately 2600 feet and effects several aquifers. It is comingled with petroleum hydrocarbon contamination in many areas.



[Unocal Site, Roseland Area, recent sampling related to Sonoma County's Investigation.]

Staff activities include the following:

- ◆ Planning and participation in the public outreach meeting to present the results of the Report to residents in the area.
- ◆ Planning and preparation for a technical meeting to discuss the Report with Responsible Parties for petroleum hydrocarbon contamination in the area. The purpose of this meeting is to request coordinated investigation and remediation of the comingled petroleum hydrocarbon and HVOC plumes, by all parties involved.
- ◆ Review of the Report including preparation of comments and questions.
- ◆ Detailed evaluation of the findings of the report to determine appropriate enforcement actions related to the HVOC and petroleum contamination that is highlighted in the Report.
- ◆ Sampling of domestic wells in the Roseland area.



[Excavation at Taylor Bus site in the Roseland Area, over 2009 yards of petroleum contaminated soil has been removed.]

WATERSHED MANAGEMENT DIVISION

Surface Water Ambient Monitoring Program (SWAMP) Activities in the North Coast Region

[Staff Contact: Peter Otis]

Water Quality Assessment

The North Coast Region has thousands of stream miles most of which have little or no assessment information. Much of our water quality data is confined to the Russian River basin or restricted to a limited number of specific sites, collected as a result of self-monitoring requirements, a cleanup or an enforcement action. With the exception of the Russian River and a few of its tributaries, we have no long-term data set on any water body in the region.

Data collected through the SWAMP program will allow us to protect our beneficial uses by identifying temporal trends in water quality in waterbodies for which we currently have little or no data. This effort is coordinated with and supportive of the core regulatory group, North Coast Watershed Assessment (NCWAP), Nonpoint Source and TMDL development programs. Our core regulatory group is currently using the draft monitoring data collected by SWAMP in the implementation of the California Toxics Rule (CTR). SWAMP reporting limits for total and dissolved metals are the lowest the Regional Board has been able to attain, and this will prove useful in establishing receiving water data for NPDES discharges.



[Regional Water Board Staff Colleen Stone and Will Arcand sampling on Elder Creek in February 2002.]

We are responsible for the development of a number of TMDLs and are on a very tight time schedule as a

result of a court ordered consent decree. SWAMP will be used to collect data in support of these efforts. Draft nutrient data is currently being used to aid USEPA in TMDL efforts in the Eel River. For FY 02-03 we plan to fund an infrared thermal imaging study of the Scott and Shasta river basins to support NCWAP and TMDL assessment efforts in these watersheds.



[Looking Downstream on the VanDuzen River in Early 2002.]

SWAMP water quality data collected during FY 01-02 is currently being used to assist NCWAP in its various assessments in coastal watersheds. The NCWAP assessment for FY 02-03 in the Scott and Shasta Rivers in will incorporate SWAMP generated information.

Stream Gauging

USGS has ceased the funding for many stream gages in our region. SWAMP has funded the installation and maintenance of three new stream gages in the Eel River system where the development of TMDLs is underway, but information on stream flow and sediment load is severely lacking. For FY 02-03 we are funding the operation and management costs for the three gages installed with SWAMP funds during FY 01-02.

Other Studies

Endocrine disrupting compounds in our environment are an important emerging issue. Through the SWAMP program, we plan to screen for the impacts from this broad class of compounds by measuring the serum vitellogenin levels in male fish at selected locations in our region. We hope to initiate collection in the summer of FY 02-03.

An ongoing health issue in our region is elevated Mercury levels in fish flesh in Lake Pillsbury, Lake Mendocino, Lake Sonoma and recently, Trinity Lake. Fish consumption advisories are currently in effect for Lake Pillsbury. Although this issue has heretofore been addressed through the Toxic Substances Monitoring Program (TSMP), lack of future funding may require SWAMP resources to address this important health issue.

SWAMP is supporting the development of an aquatic macroinvertebrate reference site study within the region. We have previously established the Russian River Index of Biotic Integrity (IBI) through Fish and Games collection efforts in the Russian River. We would like to expand this study to include updating of the IBI and the collection of reference site data in other waterbodies of the region. We plan to initiate the sample collection in FY 02-03 and complete the sampling effort in FY 03-04.

Contamination of drinking water supplies by MtBE is an issue SWAMP has been examining for the last two years. Low level MtBE contamination has been found in Lake Sonoma, Lake Mendocino, Lake Pillsbury and Ruth Lake. The SCWA continues to monitor MtBE in Lake Sonoma and Mendocino while SWAMP is monitoring Lake Pillsbury and Ruth Lake. We plan to continue this effort through FY 02-03.

CLEANUP AND ABATEMENT ORDERS

There were no Cleanup and Abatement Orders adopted during the month of March 2002.

One Recision of a Cleanup and Abatement Order was issued on March 4, 2002. The recision order was for Shoreline Development, 2 T Street in Eureka. Cleanup and Abatement Order No. 94-136 was issued on November 14, 1994. Order No. 94-136 rescinded Cleanup and Abatement Order No. 91-28 which was issued because it was discovered that underground storage tanks were releasing gasoline and diesel to the environment since 1988. Cleanup of the site has occurred in accordance with the Cleanup and Abatement Orders and monitoring will continue over the next four years to verify passive bioremediation of the remaining low levels of contamination.

CALIFORNIA WATER CODE SECTION 13267 LETTER ORDERS

There were 10 California Water Code section 13267(b) Letter Orders issued during the month of March 2002. Letters were sent to Brewley Motluck Family Limited Partnership (THP 1-99-010 MEN); Fairhaven Power Company for the Fairhaven Power Plant; Foresythe Pacific for the Mayacama Golf Course; 3652 Melcon Lane, Santa Rosa; Jim Doyle for Doyle Camp; North Coast Railroad Authority; Pacific Lumber Company for Tank Gulch Solid Waste Disposal Site; Saenz Trucking Spill; Ed Shields (THP 1-96-439 MEN-Shields); and, Sonoma County Department of Public Works for Healdsburg Solid Waste Disposal Site.

SPILLS, COMPLAINTS, AND INVESTIGATIONS

Six complaints were received during the month of March 2002.

ADMINISTRATIVE CIVIL LIABILITY COMPLAINTS/ ORDERS

No Administrative Civil Liability Complaints/Orders were issued during March 2002.

UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANK CLEANUP FUND PROGRAM

For the month of March 2002, there has been a total of \$1,546,687 in funds issued to tank owners in Region 1 from the Underground Storage Tank Cleanup Fund. There were also 4 letters of commitment issued during the month of March 2002.

CLEAN WATER ACT SECTION 401 CERTIFICATIONS

Ten new applications for Clean Water Act Section 401 Water Quality Certification were received in March 2002. Three 401 Certifications were issued in March 2002.

Information regarding all proposed certifications is available at our Internet web site at:

<http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/rwqcb1/notice404.html>

PUBLIC FILE REVIEW

From March 1 through March 31, 2002, two written requests were made for review of the Regional Water Board's records. These files were made available pursuant to the California Public Records Act. In addition, a total of 30 people came into the office and requested file review during the month of March 2002.

STAFF HIRING

There were no hires during the month of March 2002.

APRIL AND MAY WATER BOARD MEETINGS

The Regional Water Board meeting for April was held in Eureka on April 18 and 19, 2002. The Regional Water Board meeting for May will be held in Eureka on May 16 and 17, 2002.

The energy challenge facing California is real. Every Californian needs to take immediate action to reduce energy consumption. For a list of simple ways you can reduce demand and cut your energy costs, see our web-site at <http://www.swrcb.ca.gov>.